

LEEC NEWSLETTER

A COMPILATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS FROM LOUISIANA AND BEYOND



LEEC NEWS

LEEC COMPLETES WATERSHED WEBS WORKSHOPS

Teachers from all five Gulf of Mexico states enjoyed two four-day Watershed Webs workshops this summer. The two sessions were held June 21-24 at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Grand Chenier, and July 25-29 at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) near Chauvin.

Grade 5-12 educators spent four days engaged in lessons and activities focused on the dynamics of watersheds, water quality, trash, and our new WET tracker app.

During the next phase of this two-year program, sponsored by a NOAA B-WET grant, LEEC representatives will travel to participating teachers' schools and coordinate student field activities that use real data in the classroom coupled with activities designed to introduce students to the concepts of watersheds, aquatic debris and the responsibility we all have as environmental stewards.



LUMCON workshop participants clean up a section of beach on nearshore Trinity Island.

DISCOVERING BIODIVERSITY

The Alcoa Foundation sponsored a one-day workshop held at the Calcasieu Parish LSU AgCenter building in Lake Charles on June 29 and hosted by the LEEC.

Teachers received classroom materials and participated in activities designed to demonstrate insect biodiversity in the schoolyard, received birding tips from the state's red cockaded woodpecker Safe Harbor program manager, and got an update on new diamondback terrapin research underway at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.



*ABOVE: Rockefeller workshop participants learn to collect water quality data. Here they measure the amount of dissolved oxygen in water collected from a nearby pond.
RIGHT: Discovering Biodiversity participants.*



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

PLASTIC WASTE DUMPED IN UK SEAS 'CARRIED TO ARCTIC WITHIN TWO YEARS'

A recent article published by the United Kingdom's *The Guardian* highlights research that suggests our plastic waste travels quickly around the globe when introduced to marine environments and poses a direct threat to wildlife in sensitive habitats like the Arctic.

"There is fast-growing evidence of direct harm to animals that eat plastics, including young fish starving, oysters stopping reproduction and birds being weighed down," said Imperial College London oceanographer Erik van Sebille.

For more information, read the *Guardian's* article [here](#).

CONTINUING EDUCATION

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FOR NAAEE ENDS AUGUST 31

The North American Association for Environmental Education conference is heading to Madison, Wisconsin for their 45th annual NAAEE conference and 13th annual Research Symposium, working in partnership with the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education this October. The research symposium begins Oct. 18 and the conference is scheduled for Oct. 20-22.

The conference links powerful stories of innovation and success in EE from around the world with how environmental education builds community and creates purposeful change.

Find out more at <https://naaee.org/conference>.



Image courtesy www.naaee.org

LAGNIAPPE

WIN A \$150 GIFT CARD FROM NUTRIENTS FOR LIFE

Nutrients for Life seeks to educate people about the importance of responsible fertilizer use in growing healthy crops, increasing food production and feeding a growing population. This fall, high school teachers who participate in their curriculum will administer a pre-test to students, teach the high school curriculum and complete a post-test. After completion, they will submit the pre- and post-tests and win a \$150 Visa Gift-card!

To become part of this study, email ebelson@nutrientsforlife.org with subject line "Curriculum Study."

For more information, visit www.nutrientsforlife.org



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